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Foreword

The 19 papers included in this special issue of Theoretical Computer Science were written out of regard and friendship by colleagues, collaborators, friends and students of Professeur Jean Berstel on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday (July 22, 2001).

The papers deal with various subjects, but all the fields concerned were (and some still are) the objects of Jean Berstel's research and teaching, Jean Berstel whose wide and deep knowledge command the respect of all who know him.

Being one of his former students before enjoying the privilege of becoming his colleague and co-signing papers, I have witnessed his unflinching scientific rigour, but also his extreme kindness and the pleasure given by his conversation. For me he is a model I try to follow in all my scientific works. So it is to show my admiration, my thankfulness and my friendship that I have decided to set to work on this special issue and for me it is a great honour and a pleasure to be the "guest editor".

Here, I must thank all those who allowed the birth of this volume, Professor Dominique Perrin who welcomed and supported the project from its very beginning; the colleagues who responded to my call (including those who for various reasons could not take part in the project but who expressed their support); Professor Maurice Nivat who responded with trust and enthusiasm to my proposal and agreed to my being the guest editor of this special issue of Theoretical Computer Science; and last but not least all those who helped me by reporting one or several papers: Jean-Paul Allouche, Christian Choffrut, Alain Cournier, Dominique Perrin, Jean-Éric Pin, Gwénaël Richomme, Jacques Sakarovitch, Loÿs Thimonier.

All together we wish Jean Berstel a very good birthday.

Patrice Séébold
Guest Editor

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